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Wednesday, February 20, 2019 metro.us | t: MetroPhilly | f: MetroPhilly

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'EVERYBODY KNOWS'

Penelope Cruz dishes on her most challenging role yet. 14-15

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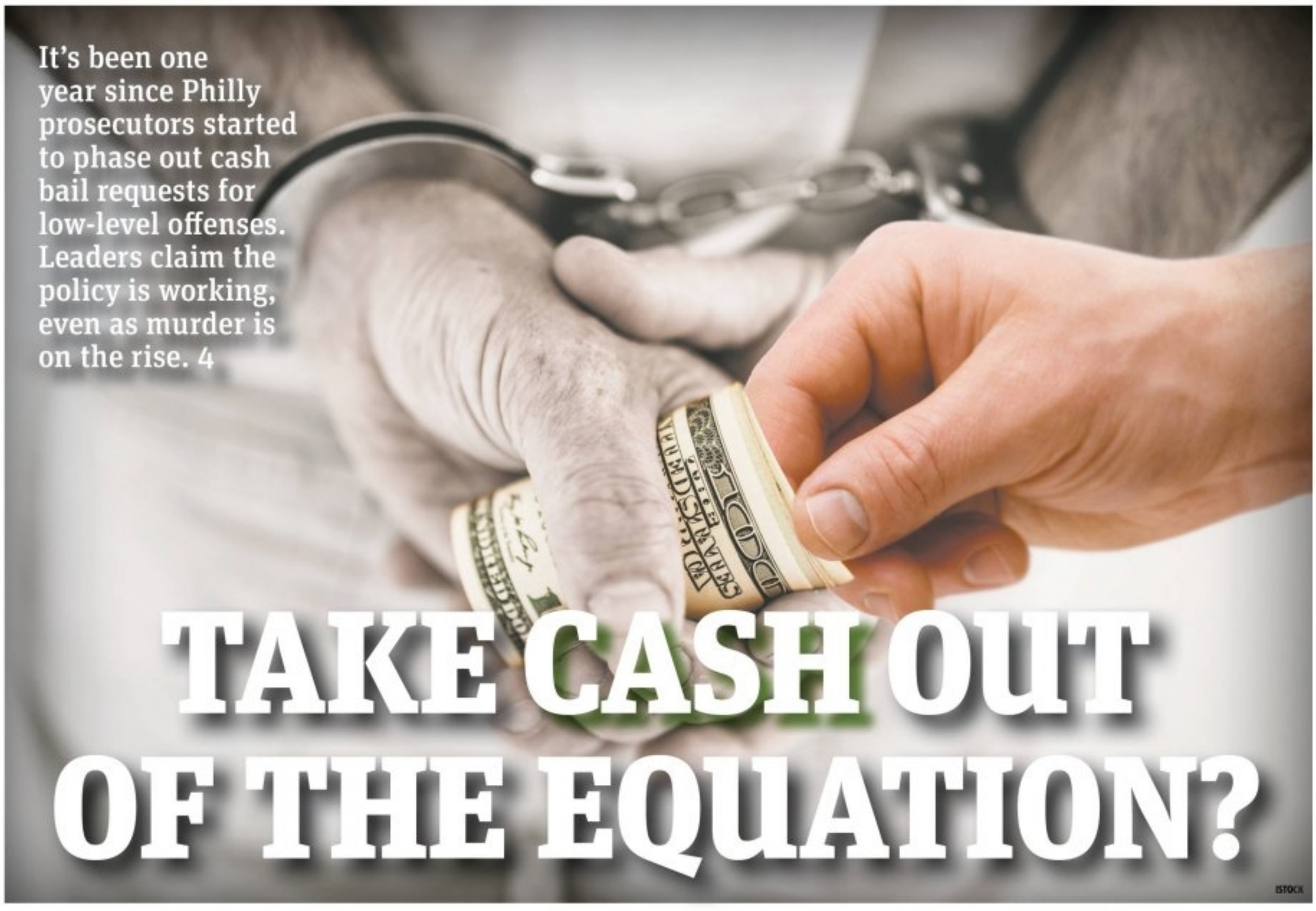
Learn about the science of love and lust at the Franklin Institute. 13

Bryce Harper becoming 'unsure' of signing with Phillies. 10-11



It's been one year since Philly prosecutors started to phase out cash bail requests for low-level offenses. Leaders claim the policy is working, even as murder is on the rise. 4

TAKE CASH OUT OF THE EQUATION?

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SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

To many, the cash bail crisis is a cornerstone of inequity in the criminal justice system. Intended as a mechanism to ensure that people charged with crime return to court for their scheduled hearings, what the cash bail system also does is incarcerate people who can't afford bail — sometimes of just a few hundred dollars — before they've been convicted of a crime. Philly's reform DA Larry Krasner says phasing out requests for cash bail for low-level offenses over the past year has been a success, even though the city is dealing with stubbornly high crime levels. Read all about it inside.

Sanders once again makes a run for president

1 U.S. Sen. Bernie Sanders, the Vermont progressive whose 2016 White House campaign garnered fervent grassroots support and pushed the Democratic Party sharply to the left, said on Tuesday he would again seek the party's presidential nomination in 2020. Sanders, 77, announced his candidacy in an email to supporters, vowing to build a vast movement to confront the special interests that he said dominate government and politics. Sanders said he would push for many of the same issues that powered his 2016 run and resonated with younger voters, including universal health care, raising the hourly minimum wage to $15, and free public college tuition. "Our campaign is about creating a government and economy that works for the many, not just the few," Sanders said, asking for 1 million people to sign up to kick off his bid.

Trump signs directive in move to create Space Force

2 President Donald Trump on Tuesday took a step needed for lawmakers to begin the lengthy process of creating a U.S. Space Force, a new branch of the military dedicated to handling threats in space. Trump signed Space Policy Directive 4, which puts in place the foundation for a legislative initiative that could establish a Space Force as a new military service comparable to the U.S. Marines. In an Oval Office signing ceremony, Trump said the Space Force is a national security priority. The memo directs the Department of Defense "to marshal its space resources to deter and counter threats in space," through the establishment of Space Force that would be part of the Air Force, according to a draft seen by Reuters. Establishing the Space Force will require congressional approval.

A London view of Supermoon 2019

3 A plane flies in the sky in front of the largest supermoon of 2019 on Tuesday in London, England. Tuesday's supermoon, sometimes known as the "Super Snow Moon," is the second supermoon of the year.

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Stone ordered to appear in court over Instagram posts

4 Roger Stone, a former political adviser to President Donald Trump, was ordered on Tuesday to appear in court this week over Instagram posts that chastised and appeared to threaten the judge presiding over his criminal trial. U.S. District Judge Amy Berman Jackson said Stone would need to show cause at a hearing on Thursday as to why the posts did not violate a gag order in the case or the conditions of his release. Stone, who is free on a $250,000 bond and is free to travel to certain U.S. cities without the court's permission, has pleaded not guilty to charges of making false statements to Congress, obstruction and witness tampering as part of Special Counsel Robert Mueller's investigation of Russian meddling in the 2016 election. Stone's attorneys filed a formal apology with the court on Monday, after he posted a photograph on Instagram of Jackson apparently in the crosshairs of a gun.

Meghan Markle in NYC for baby shower: Report

5 Meghan Markle, who is expecting her first child with Britain's Prince Harry in the spring, was in New York City for a baby shower on Tuesday, according to Harper's Bazaar magazine, which cited unnamed sources. It was the first trip back to the United States by the American former actress since her marriage to Harry at a celebrity-filled ceremony at Windsor Castle last May. Kensington Palace declined to comment on the reports that Markle, 37, was attending the gift-giving party to celebrate her baby's upcoming arrival. She was seen stepping out of a luxury hotel on Manhattan's Upper East Side on Tuesday afternoon. Markle, who holds the royal title of the Duchess of Sussex, arrived on Friday, Harper's reported, and was due to be guest of honor at the shower at her hotel.

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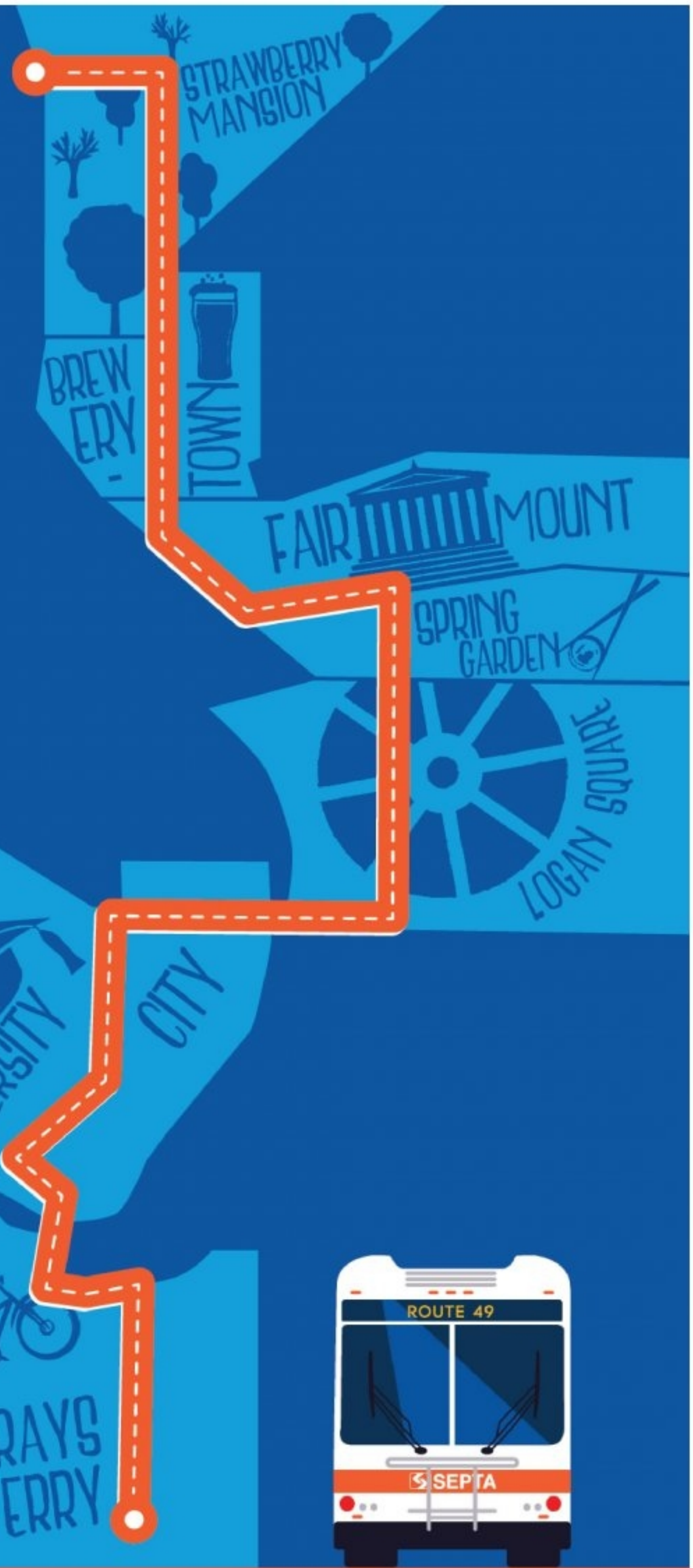

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Cash bail reforms aren't 'endangering the public,' study shows

DA Larry Krasner's decision to stop seeking cash bail for low-level crimes has achieved its goals.

SAM NEWHOUSE
sam.newhouse@metro.us

One year in, one of District Attorney Larry Krasner's most significant reforms — ordering prosecutors to stop seeking cash bail for low-level offenses — appears to be a success based on an independent academic evaluation, Krasner announced alongside Mayor Jim Kenney on Tuesday.

"We do not, we should not imprison people for poverty," said Krasner, who previously slammed the cash bail system for locking up mostly low-income people of color pretrial, while they are still technically presumed innocent, for sometimes months or even years.

Krasner touted research by professors at UPenn and George Mason universities that found that under the new policy, while more defendants were released without cash bail hanging over their heads, they still came to court for their hearings — and were not more likely to re-offend while their charges were pending.

That flies in the face of criticisms that the policy would be "endangering the public," Krasner said.

"We were being told, No. 1: 'This is gonna have the city on fire, it's gonna be a zombie invasion, you're gonna let these people out, oh my goodness, they're gonna run in the front door and take your loved ones out the back.' No, that didn't happen," Krasner said at a press conference Tuesday at City Hall. "And the second thing, was: 'Oh, my God, if you don't make them pay $250, why would they ever go to court?' No, that didn't happen."

As of Feb. 21, 2018, Krasner's office stopped asking for bail in cases based on 25 charges — which constituted 61 percent of all cases filed in Philadelphia — and where bail was set typically below $1,000, for crimes such as retail theft, DUI, prostitution and resisting arrest.

The result? There was "no detectable effect" on rates of failures to appear or re-offending for defendants released without bail in the past year, according to "Prosecutor-Led Bail Reform: Year One," a recently published study by UPenn criminology professor Aurelie Ouss and George Mason University law professor Megan Stevenson based on stats from the First Judicial District of Pennsylvania.

The researchers studied the 1,750 defendants released without bail in 2018. They found a 23 percent increase in the number of eligible defendants "released on recognizance" and ordered to return to court without bail; a 41 percent decline in bail set at amounts of $5,000 or less, and a 5 percent decrease in overnight stays in jail for eligible defendants.

Questioned about the fact that homicides also increased in 2018, Krasner denied any linkage, instead citing the opioid epidemic as driving more violence in Philly. (In 2017, 60 homicides were listed by police as being drug-related; in 2018, that number rose to 121, Krasner noted.)

"We forget the human cost of what bad systems do to people," said City Councilman Curtis Jones Jr. "You get arrested. You lose your job. You lose a home. You lose a wife. You lose hope, and then you become caught in the system. That's what cash bail can do."

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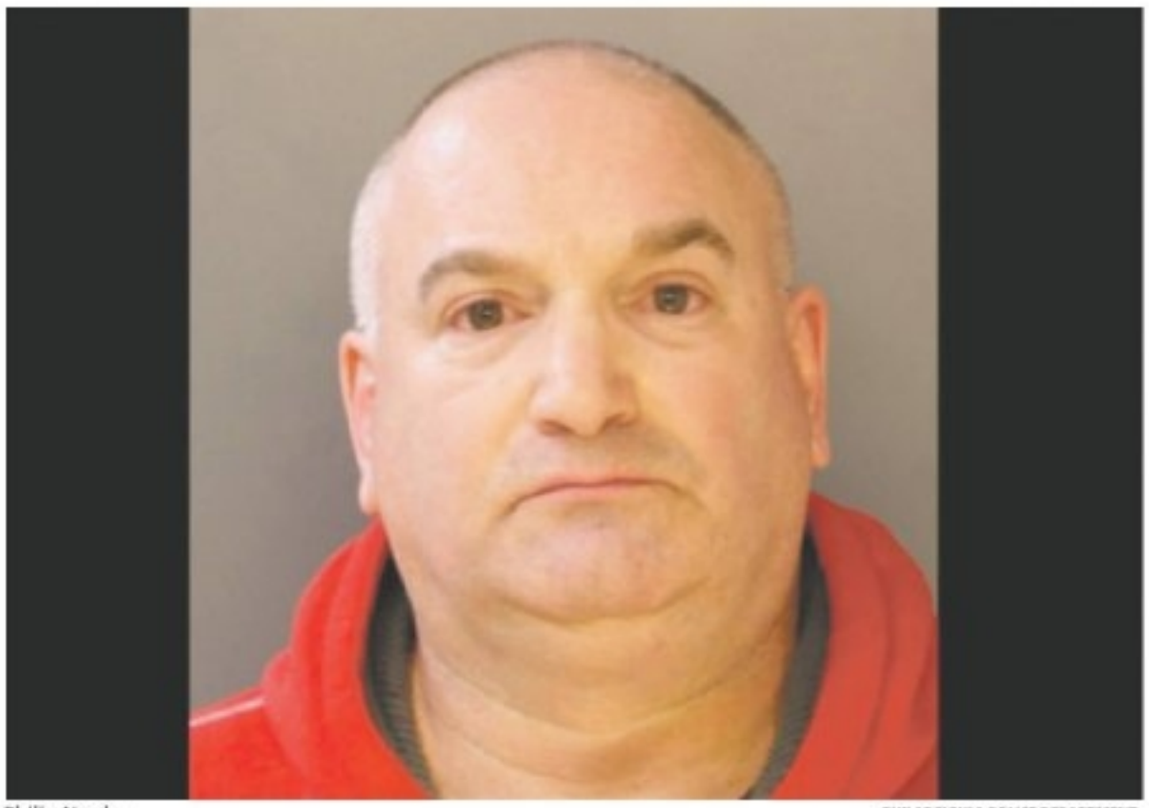

Philip Nordo. PHILADELPHIA POLICE DEPARTMENT

Former homicide detective arrested for rape of witnesses

Former Philadelphia homicide detective Philip Nordo has been arrested for allegedly sexually assaulting witnesses and suspects associated with crimes.

In a case that casts a dark shadow over the Philadelphia Police Department, Nordo, 52, was arrested early Tuesday and arraigned Tuesday afternoon on 35 counts including criminal misconduct including rape, stalking and indecent assault.

According to a 35-count grand jury presentment, Nordo "used his power and position to coerce and intimidate his potential victims."

"He cultivated relationships with male suspects, witnesses, or individuals who may or may not have been related to an investigation," the presentment states. "Nordo cultivated these relationships by grooming the individuals, engaging in conduct to make the targets of his advances more susceptible to his sexually assaultive and/or coercive behavior. He also used intimidation and manipulation to keep his victims from coming forward."

Nordo had a long career in local enforcement. After becoming a police officer in 1997, Nordo later became a detective in 2002 and joined the Homicide Unit in 2009.

One incident described in the presentment allegedly happened in April 2005 in the Philadelphia Police Department's East Detective Division, where a defendant told officers Nordo had sexually assaulted them.

In the process of obtaining a signed confession from the defendant, whose identity was redacted in the public copy of the presentment, Nordo also allegedly kissed the man and forced him to masturbate in an interrogation room.

> **"Nordo cultivated these relationships by grooming the individuals... He also used intimidation and manipulation to keep his victims from coming forward."**
>
> Grand jury presentment

After the man told other officers about the incident, Internal Affairs and a Crime Scene Unit investigated and did find semen in the interrogation room, backing up the story. (The individual in this incident was the victim of an unsolved murder in 2015.)

Nordo now faces 35 counts for this and an undisclosed number of other similar incidents, which the presentment stated occurred in interrogation rooms, official visiting rooms at prisons, and with other people he met while working as a police officer.

The presentment further states that Nordo allegedly bribed his victims, falsified paperwork to give victims up to $20,000 from the Mayor's Office Crime Reward Program, asking victims to refer other "homosexual inmates" to him, and used coercion, threats and his power as a police detective to force victims to obey him.

Details were scant in the heavily-redacted presentment. Krasner said additional allegations against Nordo were redacted to protect the privacy of the people involved. "One of our concerns in a case like this is to make sure that we protect the safety and privacy of individuals who have been victimized," Krasner said. "When you have a situation where there are shocking allegations, sometimes it emboldens people who have also been victimized to come forward."

Nordo was fired in 2017 for departmental violations that reportedly included "fraternizing" with people connected to criminal incidents, not long after reports emerged that he had been giving payments to a witness in another criminal matter.

Philly police declined to comment on what internal actions were taken after Nordo was accused of the 2005 sexual incident. MICHAEL BUTLER

Additional reporting by Sam Newhouse.

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A career secret weapon: Thank-you notes

In a world of extreme change, there is one tradition that seems to be holding on: the thank-you note.

ISTOCK

In a world of extremely rapid change, we have seen plenty of things vanish, from rotary phones to electric typewriters to 8-track music cartridges.

But there is one old-time tradition that seems to be holding on: the thank-you note.

To some it may seem laughably archaic to handwrite a note, drop it in snail mail and hope the recipient gets it a few days later. One study by staffing firm Accountemps found that only 24 percent of job applicants bother to send thank-you notes these days.

But here is the rub: Eighty percent of human resources managers surveyed felt those messages were useful in evaluating potential hires.

Devotees of the thank-you note are numerous and cultish — and swear that it helps careers and finances, as well as personal relationships. A handcrafted personal touch is not just thoughtful, it actively sets you apart from others.

Manhattan's Christina Cookman knows all about the subtle power of a thank-you note. The performance and executive coach sends a whopping 200 of them each year.

"The business case for them is that they only take five minutes of your time, and 50 cents," Cookman said. "I can't imagine that anyone who gets a handwritten, thoughtful note is ever disappointed by that. So even if the payoff is not direct, you are at the very least strengthening a relationship."

Music manager Clayton Durant got a joint partnership out of thank-you notes. Durant, the head of artist management and branding firm CAD Management, struck a joint deal to work with Ashley Rose, famed Roc Nation songwriter and head of indie music label The Code.

How exactly did that come about? Old-fashioned thank-you cards, sent after the label had worked on one of his artist's records.

"When I asked Ashley why she felt comfortable having our startup be her first joint venture, she mentioned the thank-you cards we sent to each of her producers, writers and staff," Durant said.

The biggest payoff, ironically, may be the effect thank-you cards have on the sender. In 2016, Indiana University professors Joel Wong and Joshua Brown published a study of college students who had sought counseling for common feelings like anxiety and depression.

Those who were counseled to write letters of gratitude reported better mental health both one month and three months later. Those differences continued to increase over time. As researchers concluded, "If you have never written a gratitude letter before, we encourage you to try it."

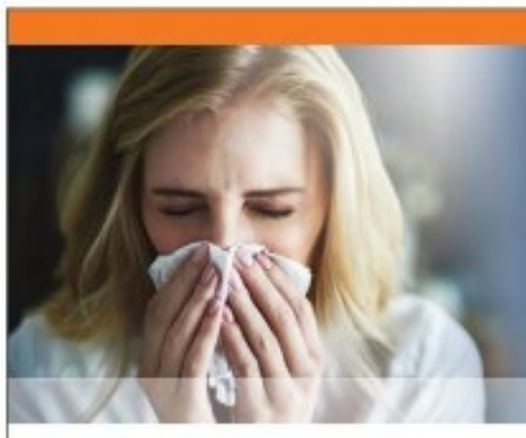
So, how to strike the right "note," expressing gratitude and boosting your career and network at the same time? Some tips:

- Write them at unexpected times. Cookman's most recent one, for instance, was to a manager at a Manhattan Dos Caminos restaurant; her friends had had their engagement party there, and he helped her secure some restaurant memorabilia before the location closed down.

- Make them as personalized as you can. That is why Durant made sure each of his notes to the record label's writers and producers was personalized. "That led to us connecting more frequently to talk about business and new artists," Durant said.

- Spring for a stamp.

REUTERS



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Designer Karl Lagerfeld walks on the runway during the Chanel 2012 Spring/Summer Haute Couture collection show in Tokyo, Japan. ALL GETTY IMAGES

Fashion's 'creative genius' Karl Lagerfeld dies at 85

The fashion icon was well known for his lavish shows.

Haute-couture designer Karl Lagerfeld, artistic director at Chanel and an icon of the fashion industry with his extravagant outfits and striking catwalks, has died aged 85.

Instantly recognizable in his dark suits, ponytailed white hair and sunglasses, Lagerfeld was best known for his association with Chanel but delivered collections for LVMH's Fendi and his own eponymous label.

Rumors of Lagerfeld's ill health had swirled after he failed to show up at Chanel's January show in Paris for his customary bow.

Chanel chief executive Alain Wertheimer recalled how he had given carte blanche to Lagerfeld in the 1980s to reinvent the brand, from the Chanel jacket to its tweeds and two-tone shoes.

"Thanks to his creative genius, generosity and exceptional intuition, Karl Lagerfeld was ahead of his time, which widely contributed to the House of Chanel's success throughout the world," Wertheimer said in a statement.

A craftsman who combined artistic instinct, business acumen and commensurate ego, Lagerfeld was known for his strikingly visual fashion show displays.

LVMH chairman and chief executive Bernard Arnault said the fashion world had lost a creative genius who helped make Paris the fashion capital of the world, and Fendi one of the most innovative Italian houses.

"I will always remember his immense imagination, his ability to conceive new trends for every season, his inexhaustible energy, the virtuosity of his drawings, his carefully guarded independence, his encyclopedic culture and his unique wit and eloquence," Arnault said.

Chanel said Virginie Viard, director of the house's creative studio, would take over creative work for the brand's collections. Several sources told Reuters the

Claudia Schiffer presents a dress designed by Karl Lagerfeld in 1994.

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French model Ines de la Fressange presents a Lagerfeld creation for Chanel in 1989.

appointment was transitional and that Lagerfeld's successor would be announced after the mourning period.

Born in Hamburg in 1933, Lagerfeld made his debut with designer Pierre Balmain as an apprentice before moving on to Patou and Chloe and then Fendi.

"He was one of the most influential and celebrated designers of the 21st century and an iconic, universal symbol of style."

Karl Lagerfeld brand, on Instagram

"He was one of the most influential and celebrated designers of the 21st century and an iconic, universal symbol of style," his own Karl Lagerfeld brand wrote on Instagram.

"He leaves behind an extraordinary legacy as one of the greatest designers of our time."

Fendi said it would go ahead as planned with a Milan fashion show of Lagerfeld's latest line for the brand on Thursday.

"The House of Fendi is in deep mourning following the death of Karl Lagerfeld, who left his mark and genius with us for more than five decades," it said.

"Now is not the time to discuss his succession. We intend to take the time to honor his life and pay him the tribute he deserves."

It was after he joined French fashion house Chanel in 1983 that Lagerfeld gained rock-star status, credited with helping jazz up the label founded by Coco Chanel in 1910 and attracting younger clients.

He was known for staging lavish shows, building Chanel catwalks amid replicas of a supermarket, casino and even an airport terminal.

On Jan. 22, Chanel hosted guests in a mocked-up Mediterranean garden for its haute-couture show. In a collection inspired by Lagerfeld's favorite period, the 18th century, feathers adorned new twists on the brand's classic tweed suits, which came with ankle length or fishtail skirts.

Tributes poured in from around the world for the man affectionately nicknamed "Kaiser Karl" and "Fashion Meister."

Victoria Beckham wrote on Instagram: "So incredibly sad to hear this. Karl was a genius and always so kind and generous to me both personally and professionally."

Italian fashion designer Donatella Versace, sister of the late Gianni Versace, wrote: "Karl your genius touched the lives of so many, especially Gianni and I. We will never forget your incredible talent and endless inspiration. We were always learning from you."

Italian designer Giorgio Armani described Lagerfeld as "an extraordinary man, both for his professional talent and his life, which he blended and turned into a unique art: the Lagerfeld way of being." REUTERS

Harper becoming 'unsure' of joining Phils, insiders say

With Manny Machado heading to San Diego, how does that affect the Phillies in their pursuit of Bryce Harper?

JOVAN ALFORD
jovan.alford@metro.us

The baseball world was sent into a frenzy on Tuesday afternoon after superstar infielder Manny Machado reached a 10-year, $300 million deal with the San Diego Padres.

Throughout the entire offseason, many fans and analysts wondered where Machado and Bryce Harper would sign and how much they would get on the free agent market. As we saw, Machado got the deal he was looking for, which now sets the market for Harper.

Tuesday's blockbuster signing also affects the Phillies in their pursuit of Harper. According to Andy Martino of SNY.tv, despite the Phillies' serious interest in the 26-year-old All-Star outfielder, word is that Harper is unsure whether or not he wants to play in Philadelphia.

However, CBS Sports HQ MLB Insider Jim Bowden reported over the weekend that there is a lot of momentum and traction with Harper heading to the Phillies.

If both reports are taken with a grain of salt, then the Phillies would have to give "stupid money" to convince Harper to sign with them. Even though Machado cashed in on a $300 million contract, the biggest free agent contract in the history of North American sports, it's safe to assume that Harper's agent Scott Boras is looking to top that amount.

As of right now, baseball's largest active contract belongs to Giancarlo Stanton of the New York Yankees. The 29-year-old signed a massive 13-year, $325 million contract with the Marlins back in November 2014.

One could expect Boras to press the Phillies to give the superstar outfielder at least a 10-year deal worth $350 million. Earlier this offseason, it was reported that the 26-year-old outfielder turned down a 10-year, $300 million contract extension on the final day of the 2018 regular season.

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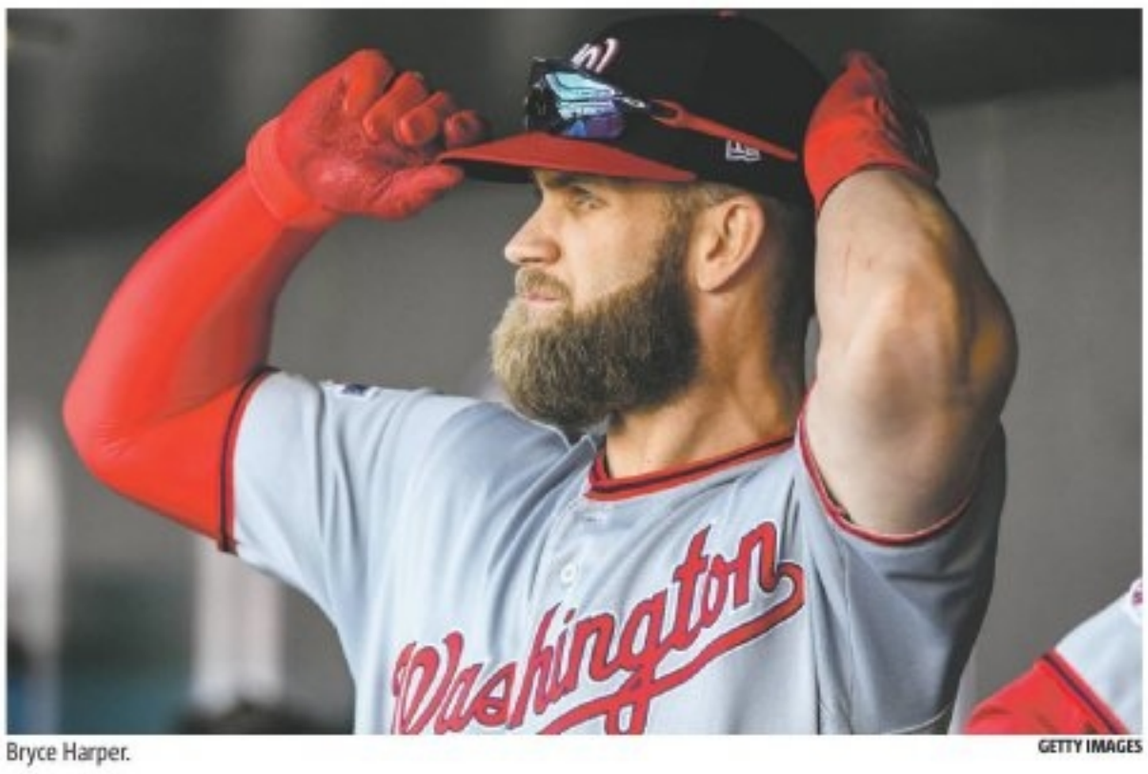

Bryce Harper. GETTY IMAGES

In addition to the financial ramifications of Machado's deal with regard to Harper, it did solidify what the Phillies will do at third base this season.

Over the last few months, it's been rumored that if the Phils signed Machado, then Maikel Franco could be traded. Last season, the 26-year-old third baseman had a bounce-back year at the plate, slashing .270/.314/.467 with 22 home runs and 68 RBIs.

Therefore, with Machado heading to the West Coast, the Phillies can continue to let Franco and Scott Kingery compete for time at the hot corner.

"We've got some really good options," Phils general manager Matt Klentak said. "I think one of the things about Franco specifically that you've heard me say, and I'll continue to say it, is that he's still very young."

"He's still — from an aging curve perspective — he's still on the ascent of his career. We saw that in flashes last year, where he was carrying a .900 OPS for a significant stretch of time. And having said that, we also know how strongly we believe in Scott Kingery with the contract we gave him and the reps we gave him last year and what he did this offseason with his work ethic. We think we have two really good options over there."

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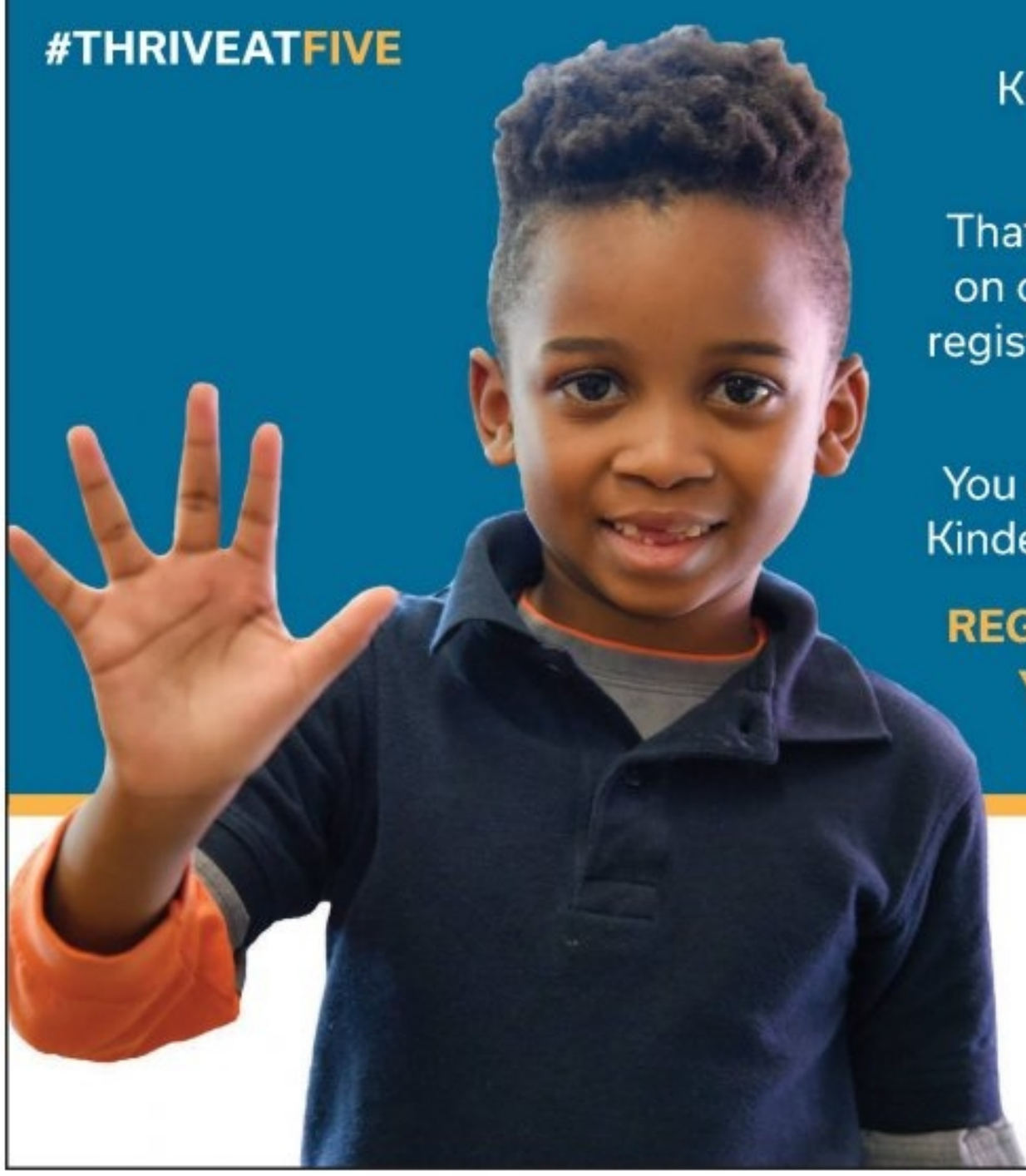

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READER WRITE-INS:

A GAS STATION GRUMBLE

It always drives me crazy that the closer I get to my total at the pump, the slower the pump goes. The worst part is, it always starts the madness about 50 cents away from my total, leaving me to stand there while the gas fills at a snail's pace until the last cent. Not sure if this bothers anyone else, but it really grinds my gears! Thanks for reading.

— **Courtney R. Franklin**, *Metro US reader*

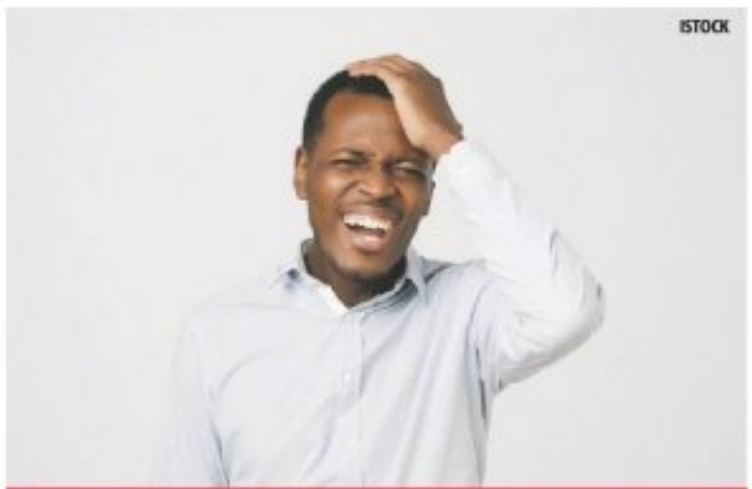
ISTOCK

#metrohumble

YOU JUST HAVE TO LAUGH AT IT ALL SOMETIMES

Hate it when you've worked a 12-hour shift, then take the train home, EXHAUSTED, and you get some obnoxious, loud, annoying rider looking to make a show and scene for everybody. I kinda find it amusing. Ha!

— **Bruce**, *Metro US reader*



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Please remember to send your Humbles to **humble@metro.us**. These submissions can be acts of gratitude, positivity or kindness that you have seen throughout the day.

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Take care of responsibilities personally. If you trust someone to handle your affairs, you will be disappointed. Gather information and avoid making a mistake.

Taurus Don't lose sight of your target. If you put everything you've got into reaching your goal, the rewards will prove to be worthwhile. Plan to celebrate your victory with a loved one.

Gemini Emotional matters will surface if you or someone close to you isn't truthful or tries to skirt important issues. Keep things in perspective and stick to details and facts.

Cancer Trust and believe in your ability. Take the lead and make your voice heard. You can bring about change that will improve your life and important relationships.

Leo Put more time and effort into personal improvements. Spend less and do more. Concentrate on better health and less excess. Joint ventures will not offer the results you are hoping for.

Virgo Listen to what others have to say, but act on principle, facts and truth. Follow your instincts and be straightforward about your intentions and feelings.

Libra Keep personal matters a secret. If you listen to others' complaints, it will provide insight into the incentives you can offer to help you get what you want.

Scorpio Follow your heart and start acting on your plans. Speak your mind and share your feelings. Love and romance are highlighted and will improve your personal life.

Sagittarius Be careful what you say and how you handle others. Saying the wrong word or exaggerating the facts will put you in an awkward position. Practice moderation and minimalism.

Capricorn Money matters, contracts and settlements should be handled personally. Know what you want and oversee anything that requires you to deal with government agencies, institutions or authority figures.

Aquarius Don't let the actions of others make you angry. Do your own thing and let your success speak for you. What you accomplish will be a reflection of you and your capabilities.

Pisces If you say what's on your mind, you'll find a way to solidify plans you've been wanting to make for some time. A promising relationship will become stronger if you speak the truth. EUGENIA LAST

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Performers from NYC's House of Yes will be in attendance. GETTY

All is fair in 'Love & Lust'

The FI's Science After Hours event this month focuses on "Love & Lust."

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

The Franklin Institute is delving into the sultry science behind love and lust for its Science After Hours event this month. The goal of "Love & Lust" is to reduce the stigma still associated with talking about sex, and provide opportunities for discussions between guests and those presenting at the event — and the Franklin Institute is reducing the stigma in an extremely fun and entertaining way.

"Love & Lust" will feature an evening full of interactive activities, drinks, music, games and many more happenings all aimed to entertain and educate guests. The FI has teamed up with Thomas Jefferson University, Yards Brewing Company and the Mutter Museum to make the evening as interesting as possible, and Philadelphians are in for a treat.

Members from the New York club House of Yes will be taking over the "Giant Heart" exhibit and providing live entertainment and educational skits, all aimed at the science behind love and lust. The entertainment will feature colorful characters such as the Lovelorn Lady (a heartbroken drag performer) and the Hormone Fairies (two bio/drag performers portraying the chemical reactions in the body that create rational and irrational thinking).

The Philadelphia Zoo will also be on-site to talk about the bizarre and interesting mating habits and rituals of animals, while the Pennsylvania Horticultural Society and Philadelphia Flower Show will be offering their services to guests who wish to make their own floral boutonnieres.

Guests who head to the Fels Planetarium can dance the night away to '90s music spun by DJ Wassup Gina, or participate in dance lessons that will be provided throughout the evening, all while sipping on refreshing beverages from the cash bar.

If you go:

Feb. 26, 7-10 p.m., The Franklin Institute, 222 N. 20th St., $20-$25, fi.edu

If you are looking to learn more while participating in fun activities, you're in luck. Dr. Timaree Schmit, a local sexologist with a Ph.D. in Human Sexuality Education and host of the podcast "Sex with Timaree," will be in attendance to have informal discussions with anyone who wants to chat. There will also be an interactive twist on classic sex education classes, three rounds of quizzo and an interactive game show that looks at the myths and misunderstandings associated with safe sex practices and the human anatomy.

All activities are aimed to answer common questions based on what attracts one human to another. Guests who attend this month's Science After Hours event can kick back and be curious, all while having a fun and lighthearted night at the historical museum.

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"Everybody Knows" was the hardest role of Cruz's career. FOCUS FEATURES

Why 'Everybody Knows' was the most challenging role of Penelope Cruz's career

The actress opens up about the psychological thriller.

GREGORY WAKEMAN
Gregory.Wakeman@metro.us

As an Academy Award-winning and nominated actress, Penelope Cruz always puts her heart, soul and intellect into every role she has ever taken on. But despite the toil that went into her being recognized for "Vicky Christina Barcelona," "Volver" and "Nine," Cruz insists that her performance in Asghar Farhadi's "Everybody Knows" was her toughest part to date. Especially because she had to keep up the intensity while playing a mother who has to deal with her daughter being kidnapped when she returns home to Spain for a wedding, enduring "four months" of shooting that ultimately started to impact her health.

"When we did the takes, we would go 100 percent intensity," Cruz tells Metro. "It was very intense and very exhausting. I love that I was given this kind of character. I really feel grateful for Asghar's trust. But by the end of the shooting, I had a fever every night. At the end, during the last month of the shooting, my body was, like, flipping out. I was like, 'What is going on?' Of course you know it's a fiction, but I think a little percentage of yourself gets confused."

Cruz is the first to admit that she loves "a challenge," which is exactly why she has done a lot of drama recently, including her acclaimed performance as Donatella Versace in "The Assassination of Gianni Versace." But "Everybody Knows" tested every mental and physical aspect of her acting talent.

"I'm not complaining. But this one, I think was the most difficult ever. But Asghar also made it very enjoyable, because he's a very peaceful man and very kind. So we just wanted to give him 100 percent. But this was the hardest character."

But how did Cruz manage to maintain and control her level of anxiety and emotion for such a prolonged period?

"I tried to graduate my energy. At the end of the day, if I was done on the set, I would go and take a shower and I was done. I was done until the next day. I didn't want to think about it," says Cruz. "I never want to take the character home. But imagine, with one like this, I wanted to do that even less. So I would be on the set totally focused. I felt like I was on some kind of marathon.

"I needed an amount of concentration for this one where I could not even really be hanging out with everybody or go to the restaurant a lot. I was locked in a room studying and reading and in my zone," she adds. "And then I would be there 12 hours a day and by the end of it I would go home and just be by myself, or with my family, and try to forget about everything. Then go back the next day and give 100 percent."

It helped that "Everybody Knows" also stars her husband Javier Bardem, and was written and directed by Farhadi. The Oscar-winning filmmaker even wrote the character especially for the actress, developing it with her over five years.

"It was a dream call when he asked, because

Asghar Farhadi, Javier Bardem and Penelope Cruz. GETTY IMAGES

I always wanted to work with him. I think he's one of the greatest directors working today," Cruz says of Farhadi. "So I got involved in the project from that call, and five years later we made the movie. He told me he thought about Javier as well for the movie. Independently, he called him. Javier got attached. So he was having a relationship with both of us separately, sending us treatments and pages and getting us really involved in the process."

Having seen the likes of "A Separation" and "The Salesman," Cruz knew that Farhadi would get a completely honest performance out of her.

"You really don't see anybody lying in his films. You don't see any tricks. It feels like a documentary. The acting he gets, it really feels like things are happening in front of you. So that was why it was so fascinating for me to work with him."

How exactly did Farhadi get that performance out of Cruz, though?

"He's very honest. So if he sees something that he doesn't believe, he will come to that person and say, 'In that take, your eyes were lying.' Or, 'That was empty.' Or, 'Don't think that this is a movie. We have to think this is documentary.' He will be so straightforward and honest," Cruz explains. "I always prefer that. And that's the way he can get through his point of view. You don't want a director that always tells you every single take was great, because that is impossible. You're not there to get compliments. You're there to try to do a good job."

"It was very intense and very exhausting. I love that I was given this kind of character. I really feel grateful for Asghar's trust. But by the end of the shooting, I had a fever every night. "

"Everybody Knows" is now in select theaters.

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Necar Zadegan steals the show in 'Documentary Now!'

The "NCIS: New Orleans" star talks parodying the popular Netflix docuseries "Wild Wild Country."

ANDREW HUSBAND
drew.husband@metro.us

Necar Zadegan plays Ra-Sharir in "Documentary Now!" season 3. "Documentary Now!" returns for a new season tonight.
RHYS THOMAS/IFC

Soon after the documentary series "Wild Wild Country" premiered on Netflix last year, audiences found themselves captivated once again by Ma Anand Sheela, the former spokeswoman for the Rajneesh movement. Perhaps this is why, despite the presence of actors like Michael Keaton and Owen Wilson, the real star of the two-part "Documentary Now!" season 3 premiere is Necar Zadegan.

Best known for her work in television shows like "NCIS: New Orleans" and "Girlfriends' Guide to Divorce," the actress plays Ra-Sharir, a character she describes as "a louder version" of Sheela as "Wild Wild Country" depicts her. Metro spoke to Zadegan about the character ahead of the season 3 premiere, which executive producer and writer Seth Meyers titled "Batsh*t Valley."

"I had seen the documentary before getting involved, and Ra-Sharir for sure is probably the most closely related to the actual person who inspired her," she explains. "She's an interesting character and, of course, she's even a louder version of Sheela in 'Wild Wild Coun-

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Necar Zadegan as Ra-Sharir.

try.' Everything is more heightened. In that sense, she's even a bit more glamorous than her counterpart… especially when you consider the things Seth did to distance Ra-Sharir from Sheela."

That Meyers and the "Documentary Now!" team go to great lengths to heighten, or exaggerate, the subjects they lampoon makes sense. This is a comedy series, after all, and comedy that means to satirize something lives, breathes and dies by exaggeration.

When done right, like in "Batsh*t Valley," this kind of comedy can even be used to heighten serious matters in an otherwise humorous setting. The two-part premiere does this so well with the character of Ra-Sharir and it's worth going into Wednesday's episodes without being spoiled. So relax, because there are no spoilers here, but that didn't stop Zadegan from gushing about the experience.

"Oh my god, it's so hilarious what Seth and those guys have done," she exclaims. "And it's weird how relevant it is. Think about our current politics and how all these discussions are happening about how so many people were duped. Ra-Sharir is sort of a spoof of that discussion, especially since she's such a duper herself. I mean, it's obviously terrible, but the character is so exaggerated that it's comedic."

As much credit as Zadegan gives to Meyers, her co-stars and the "Documentary Now!" team, however, she too deserves plenty of accolades for her work in Wednesday's two-part premiere. The Ra-Sharir character is a force to be reckoned with throughout "Batsh*t Valley" and much of this stems from her onscreen presence.

Even so, she still can't believe that she got to appear in "Documentary Now!", let alone work with Keaton and Wilson.

"I was under the impression that I was going to be working with Fred [Armisen] and Bill [Hader], so it was a surprise when that didn't happen," she laughs. "I was imagining Fred playing Owen's part and Bill playing Michael's. So that was news to me when that casting happened, and it was just so awesome to get to work with Owen and Michael instead. I mean, I always thought this was going to be awesome when I pictured it in my head."

"Documentary Now!" season 3 premiere airs tonight at 11 p.m. on IFC.

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MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

GETTY IMAGES

Sports executives often say certain prospective draft picks do or do not pass the "eye test." Looking around at Parx Casino on a random Tuesday afternoon this month, one thing is for sure: Parx and its new sportsbook pass the "eye test" with flying colors.

Many Las Vegas casinos would be jealous of Parx's layout. It's bright, golden and gorgeous, with a sea of blackjack, craps, roulette, slots and, of course, a brand-new sportsbook.

"We're here to be serious players in this space — the sports betting space in Pennsylvania," Parx Casino Senior Vice President of Interactive Gaming and Sports Matthew Cullen said in an exclusive interview with MetroBet. "You can see the investment we've made with the look of the sportsbook and the $10 million we paid for the license. And with the high tax rate that we're paying back to the state. Sports betting is in our history at Parx with our owners and we're just excited that it's here. It's been a long time coming."

Parx was packed on this rainy day with bettors flooding the new book to throw cash down on the Sixers, who were -6.5 favorites over the Celtics.

"Sports betting is a business where people have to — if you haven't been in it before — you have to be ready for the ebbs and flows," Cullen told MetroBet. "You're not going to win every day. It just doesn't happen that way. And in a city like Philadelphia, you definitely don't, because oftentimes your book is going to be lopsided. Like the other night, we were lopsided on the 76ers. Then again, if you're out of whack with the other Philly books or offshore, a really sharp player is going to hit you. We've got to be in line with all of the other books globally. We know that some days we're going to be way upside down on a particular game because everybody is betting on the Eagles or the Sixers or Phillies in this market. And you just have to hope that tomorrow they come back and if they win they end up coming back and playing with you again."

Parx is well aware that the sports betting business in Philadelphia is already a crowded and highly competitive field. Cullen believes, however, that they have all the ingredients to be a leader in the new market.

"I think the thing that separates us is that we saw how some of the other sportsbooks opened their business and from what we heard, they weren't very well staffed," Cullen told MetroBet. "We've overstaffed. We've also made a big investment in technology with all of these kiosks. Our kiosks are all throughout the casino. Some of the other places have eight or nine. We have 26 throughout our casino here. So we're ready for the rush."

TWEET OF THE DAY

Doug Kezirian
@DougESPN

With reports of Manny Machado signing with San Diego, the Westgate SuperBook moves the Padres season win total from 76.5 to 79.5.

Their World Series odds also moved from 80-1 to 50-1.

In addition to the main book in Bensalem, Parx also has a smaller sportsbook at the South Philadelphia Turf Club and they are set to open a third location at Valley Forge in Oaks, Pennsylvania, just before the start of March Madness.

GETTY IMAGES

Sports betting 101: Beware of the **bubble!**

VSiN

In all sports, bettors have a tendency to make bad bets on "must-win" teams. They figure motivation is something that transcends points or price, and will inspire players to peak performance. This is especially true when a "must-win" scenario is lined up against an opponent "with nothing to play for."

Mid-February is when "bubble" talk moves front and center in mainstream media coverage of college basketball. Everyone's looking forward to the NCAA Tournament. Many teams are already locks. Dozens more have no chance to get in unless they win their conference tournaments. A small subset is neither safely in nor yet in need of a miracle.

Put those two factors together and you have potential potholes all over the betting card from now through the end of conference tournaments.

You're going to be tempted to bet all the "must-win" Dance hopefuls you're hearing about on TV coverage. And, if you're a typical bettor, REALLY tempted to lay points with them at home against visitors lacking motivation. Those are going to seem like gifts to the uninitiated. They're not.

Think about it this way. For a team to still be on the bubble THIS deep into the season, it must be unable to control its own destiny against most opponents. Bubble teams can get hot and spring upsets, but they're upset fodder themselves against lesser opponents. They probably possess a strength that opponents must guard against, but also a glaring weakness that's easily exploited.

And, it's not like it's a big secret who the bubble teams are. You're not catching the market napping by betting them. In some cases you're paying a premium because oddsmakers know the public wants to bet high-profile bubble teams, and shades the line against that tendency.

Why lay an extra half-point or point with a mediocrity that has a glaring weakness? You might get away with it once or twice. Over the large batch of possible betting options the next few weeks, asking inconsistent performers to lift their game is probably going to be a money-losing strategy.

It IS worth considering trying to find one or two tweeners who are just now playing their best basketball of the season. Maybe a team that was dealing with injuries before, but is now healthy. The key is finding situations where motivation is a nice ingredient in a cocktail, rather than the only reason for betting.

JEFF FOGLE

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HARRY MAYES

Harry Mayes is a sports betting expert and a longtime sports radio voice in Philadelphia. Mayes currently hosts a talk radio show on 97.3 ESPN in South Jersey.

The greatest rivalry in basketball reconvenes for a 249th meeting when the eighth-ranked Tar Heels, hot off a blowout win at Wake Forest, invade Cameron Indoor Stadium to take on the top-ranked Blue Devils.

Duke is all but unbeatable at Cameron with their only home loss this season coming to Syracuse in OT. The Devils were without star wing Cam Reddish, who averages 13.8 points and got an 0-10, three-point field goal performance from junior forward Jack White in Reddish's absence in that one. The Blue Devils are outscoring opponents by 20 points per game. Aside from their two wins over Virginia, their greatest win came on the road at Louisville, where they overcame a 23-point deficit in the final 10 minutes to win, 71-69. This team of NBA lottery picks proved there that they are not just a front-running bully team, but a team with mental toughness and the ability to turn a game with their defense.

I like the matchup of the ACC's best defender, Duke's Tre Jones, on fellow freshman guard Coby White for UNC. Jones has a 5:1 assist-to-turnover ratio and White enters with 4.3 assists to 2.8 turnovers per contest. Carolina shot the lights out from 3 (16-25) at Wake on Saturday and will need a similar performance to get a win at Duke. R.J. Barrett and Zion Williamson are the top two scorers in the conference and present matchup nightmares for every team.

GETTY IMAGES

I believe they will prove to be too strong and athletic for Luke Maye and Cameron Johnson to handle over the course of 40 minutes. The Tar Heels defense will be hindered by a few ankle injuries to both Nassir Little and key defensive sub Leaky Black, who has missed the last five games. Duke enters the game 8-6 ATS as home favorites. UNC, meanwhile, is 8-4 ATS in conference and 11-6-2 ATS after a victory over SU.

Duke thrives on energy at home and they lead the nation with 7.2 blocks per game and are third in the nation in steals with 10.5 per game. Nothing gets the "Cameron Crazies" going more than a slam dunk in transition off of a block or a steal. I expect a few of those for the "Dukies" tonight. Aside from competing for a national championship, games like tonight's are why three lottery picks came to Duke. I expect them to shine on the big stage tonight.

The Pick : DUKE - 10.5

Sports on TV Highlights

6:30 pm	**Men's CBB** Villanova Wildcats vs. Georgetown Hoyas	FOX SPORTS 1
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Louisville Cardinals vs. Syracuse Orange	ESPN
7:00 pm	**Men's CBB** Florida Gators vs. LSU Tigers	ESPN 2
7:30 pm	**NHL Hockey** Chicago Blackhawks vs. Detroit Red Wings	NBC Sports Network
9:00 pm	**Men's CBB** UNC Tar Heels vs. Duke Blue Devils	ESPN
10:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Boston Bruins vs. Vegas Golden Knights	NBC Sports Network

Villanova vs. Georgetown betting preview

The Big East "rivalry" between the Villanova Wildcats (20-6) and Georgetown Hoyas (15-10) has been about as uncompetitive as it can get of late. Jay Wright's squad has won nine straight dating back to February 2015 (6-3 ATS). These programs met as recently as Feb. 3, and the 17th-ranked Wildcats won by 12. A similar result should be expected on Wednesday night at Capital One Arena.

Villanova is seeking to rebound after an upset loss to St. John's on Sunday. Their starters shot almost too poorly to be believed. Collin Gillespie, Phil Booth and Eric Paschall combined to go 5-for-30 (16.7 percent) from the floor, yet their team only lost by six on the road.

Wright will seek to regain his composure, too, after receiving a technical foul for arguing with an official in the midst of a 20-5 Red Storm run. But bettors should treat Sunday as a blip on the radar for the Wildcats.

Nova is 8-2 against the spread in their last 10 in conference play and have covered in 20 of their last 28 games following a straight-up loss (per Covers.com). Meanwhile, the Hoyas have dropped three of their last four games and are 9-20-1 against the spread in their last 30 contests. Senior center Jessie Govan models coach Patrick Ewing on offense (18.1 points per game), but his club's 255th-ranked home defense (79.3 points allowed per game) is highly exploitable.

The play: Villanova -7

ROBERT CRISCOLA

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MEN'S CBB

VILLANOVA -7 VS. GEORGETOWN

LOUISVILLE CARDINALS VS. SYRACUSE ORANGE - EVEN

FLORIDA GATORS VS. LSU TIGERS -5

UNC TAR HEELS VS. DUKE BLUE DEVILS -10.5

STANFORD CARDINAL VS. ARIZONA STATE SUN DEVILS -9

NHL

CHI BLACKHAWKS +135 VS. DETROIT RED WINGS -115

BOSTON BRUINS +150 VS. VEGAS GOLDEN KNIGHTS -130

Villanova, La Salle looking for wins tonight

ALL GETTY IMAGES

After falling to defeat last weekend on the road, both the No. 17 Villanova Wildcats (20-6) and La Salle Explorers (8-16) are back in action on Wednesday night. The Wildcats will be taking on the Georgetown Hoyas in Washington, D.C. (6:30 p.m. ET, FS1), while the Explorers will be traveling up to New York to take on the Bonnies of St. Bonaventure (7 p.m. ET, ESPN+).

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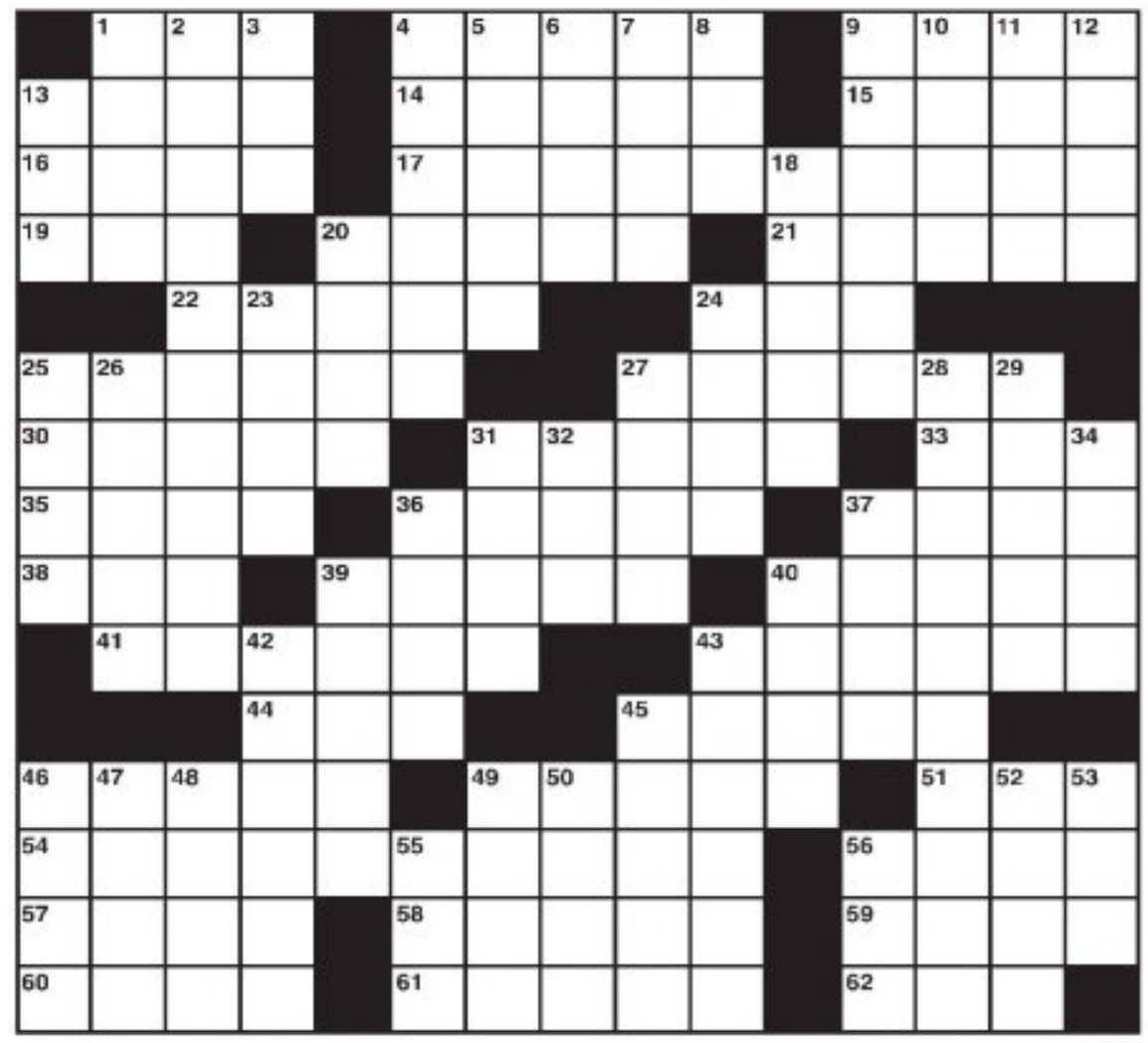

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ACROSS

1 Short sleep
4 British racecourse
9 Slaughtered
13 Baking __; fridge freshener
14 Part of NASA
15 Oz visitor
16 Singer Williams
17 Capital of Arkansas
19 Luau dish
20 Actress Claire
21 Gracefully flexible
22 Strong string
24 ABC followers
25 Customer
27 Trickery; fraud
30 Street uprisings
31 Swindle
33 Unruly crowd
35 Overnight stops
36 Bundle of wheat
37 __ on; incite
38 "Who Wants to __ Millionaire?"
39 Melon or squash
40 __ firma; dry land
41 Zigzag skiing
43 Truthful
44 Embargo
45 __ with; grows close to
46 Acting award
49 Small weights
51 British title
54 Tourist's stop in Washington, D.C.
56 Costa __
57 Musical symbol
58 California athlete
59 Kitchen appliance
60 Candy store chain
61 Unkempt
62 Berth or cot

DOWN

1 Advice to Nanette
2 Extra; supplementary
3 __ for; buy
4 Tilted
5 Backbone
6 Actress Blanchett
7 Fall months: abbr.
8 Israel's __ Aviv
9 Bitter conflict
10 Money, slangily
11 Engrave
12 Roused
13 Maple tree secretion
18 Chosen few
20 Clamors
23 Dampens
24 Unable to hear
25 Baby's bed
26 Read between the __
27 No longer with us
28 Remarkable
29 Sightseeing trips
31 Pal
32 That woman
34 Babysitter's bane
36 Before long
37 "__ in the Clowns"; Judy Collins hit
39 Stare angrily
40 Heavy weights
42 Diminishes
43 Unattractive
45 First, second and third
46 Possesses
47 Loafer or moccasin
48 Give a traffic ticket to
49 "__ with the Wind"
50 Carpets
52 __ tea
53 __ away; fled
55 Show-off
56 Steal from

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D	N	I	M	R	E	V	E	N	F
N	I	R	V	A	N	A	R	I	I
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M	P	G	K	I	L	R	U	B	T
J	I	S	F	U	U	T	O	O	R
G	R	U	N	G	E	Q	Y	C	U
O	I	B	X	E	R	V	S	E	K
L	T	P	N	S	F	O	A	O	Q
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7					1			8
	8			2		3	9	
8		3				2	1	
	1			8			6	
	2	9				8		3
	4	7		1			8	
1			9					4
			7			1	3	

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		N	O	R	M	S			M	A	R			
C	A	T	N	A	P			C	A	R	S	O	N	
A	L	L	E	Y		C	L	O	V	E		B	I	B
L	I	E	S		G	O	O	D	S		F	L	E	E
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